MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
THE VILLA BEAUMARIS, A 19th CENTURY FOLLY, STANDS ABOVE A QUIET ROCKY BAY OF PROVENCE
THE BLUEBEARD AFFAIR
IN THE DINING HALL, BARON RATH IS AT TABLE WITH HIS DAUGHTERS
YOUR DEAR STEP-MAMMA HAS ANOTHER MIGRAINE, I FEAR
IS IT NOT TIME FOR A PERMANENT CURE, PAPA?
2847
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
YOU HAVE BEEN MARRIED TO OUR DEAR STEP-MAMMA FOR THREE YEARS NOW, PAPA
QUITE SO, HORTENSE
LONGER THAN TO ANY OF OUR PREVIOUS STEP-MAMMAS
EXPERIENCE TEACHES PATIENCE, CELESTE...
...BUT I THINK THE TIME HAS NOW COME FOR HER TO BE USHERED INTO A BETTER WORLD
OH, GOOD!
CAN WE DO IT FOR YOU? PLEASE, PAPA?
2848
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
OH, DO LET US ARRANGE THE MATTER, PAPA
YOU KNOW WE DID IT SO NICELY LAST TIME
I THINK I SPOIL MY LITTLE DAUGHTERS, BUT NEVER MIND— HAVE YOU ANY PARTICULAR METHOD IN VIEW?
OH YES, PAPA!
WE THOUGHT WE MIGHT DISPOSE OF OUR DEAR STEP-MAMMA BY A NICE DROWNING ACCIDENT THIS TIME
2849
NICOLE, FOURTH WIFE OF BARON RATH, HEARS HER DEATH BEING PLANNED
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
DO YOU WANT US TO ARRANGE FOR OUR DEAR STEP-MAMMA'S DROWNING SOON, PAPA?
DEAR GOD ... HAVE I GONE MAD?
ALL LEGAL MATTERS TO ENSURE THAT I INHERIT HER FORTUNE HAVE BEEN CONCLUDED ... SO NEXT WEEK WOULD BE SUITABLE, WHEN SHE HAS RECOVERED FROM THIS WRETCHED MIGRAINE
PERHAPS YOU WOULD CARE TO PENCIL THAT IN, MY DEARS?
NO!... NO!
2850

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
UNTIL STEP-MAMMA HAS BEEN ACCIDENTALLY DROWNED WE MUST BE CAREFUL, PAPA— SHE IS SENSITIVE TO ATMOSPHERE
I HAVE TAKEN THE USUAL PRECAUTIONS, CELESTE...
THE TELEPHONE IS OUT OF ORDER, AND OUR FAITHFUL RETAINERS WILL KEEP WATCH ON HER—UNDERSTOOD, PIERRE?
AS ALWAYS, M'SIEU LE BARON
TWENTY MILES ALONG THE COAST, AT CANNES, IN THE CASINO OFFICE...
THERE IS MODESTY BLAISE— ON NUMBER THREE MONITOR
AH, YES— THANK YOU
2851
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
GOOD EVENING, MODESTY ...YOU ONCE TOLD ME THAT ROULETTE IS A MUG'S GAME, SINCE THE ODDS FAVOUR THE BANK
RENÉ! THE ODDS ARE AGAINST RUNNING INTO YOU HERE, BUT IT'S HAPPENED—AND WHAT A NICE SURPRISE
BUT NOT AN ACCIDENT... CAN YOU SPARE ME AN HOUR, MODESTY? THE MATTER IS PERSONAL, NOT OFFICIAL
I'LL GET MY COAT
2852
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
RÉNÉ VAUBOIS, HEAD OF FRENCH INTELLIGENCE...
JULES, AT THE CASINO, SAID YOU HAD TAKEN A YACHT FOR A MONTH—CAN WE TALK THERE?
FINE... I'LL MAKE A COLD LOBSTER SALAD FOR SUPPER
YOU—ER—ARE NOT WITH A FRIEND?
I'M UNATTACHED JUST NOW—
RÉNÉ! DON'T SAY YOU HAVE DESIGNS ON ME?
NOT ROMANTIC DESIGNS, UNFORTUNATELY— BUT THANK YOU FOR THE COMPLIMENT
2853
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
NO NEED TO WAIT UP, MAURICE, I WON'T BE NEEDING ANYTHING
THANK YOU, MAM'SELLE... GOODNIGHT
AT THE YACHT MARINA...
HALF AN HOUR LATER...
ALL RIGHT— WHAT'S IT ABOUT, RÉNÉ?
MY NIECE, NICOLE, WHO USED TO BE MY WARD—AGED THIRTY, RATHER PLAIN, A TIMID CREATURE WITH NO SELF-CONFIDENCE
AT TWENTY-FIVE SHE INHERITED A LARGE FORTUNE, AND TWO YEARS LATER SHE MARRIED BARON RATH—WHO BOUGHT HIS TITLE FROM A PENNILESS HUNGARIAN, I BELIEVE
2854

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
I COULD NOT PREVENT NICOLE'S MARRIAGE... BUT NOW, FROM AN INTELLIGENCE REPORT, AND QUITE BY CHANCE, I HAVE LEARNED SOMETHING WHICH MAKES ME FEAR FOR HER LIFE
UNDER DIFFERENT TITLES, BARON RATH HAS ALREADY HAD THREE WIVES... I KNOW NOTHING OF THE FIRST, EXCEPT THAT HE HAD TWO DAUGHTERS BY HER
THEY ARE GROWN UP NOW, AND LIVING WITH HIM AT THE VILLA BEAUMARIS, A LONELY PLACE ON THE ESTEREL COAST
WHAT ABOUT WIVES TWO AND THREE?
2855
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
BARON RATH'S SECOND WIFE WAS AUSTRIAN, HIS THIRD ITALIAN, AND BOTH WERE MUCH LIKE MY NIECE, NICOLE — WEALTHY, BUT SHY AND COLOURLESS
... BOTH DIED, IN EACH CASE BY WHAT SEEMED AN UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT
AND YOU'RE AFRAID THE SAME THING MAY HAPPEN TO NICOLE?
VERY MUCH AFRAID... IN MY WORK ONE DEVELOPS AN INSTINCT, MODESTY— YOU KNOW?
YES... I NEVER IGNORE A HUNCH
2856
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
SO YOU THINK BARON RATH IS A MODERN BLUEBEARD AND MIGHT KILL NICOLE— BUT WHY COME TO ME, RÉNÉ?
I CANNOT ACT ON VAGUE SUSPICION...
I HOPED YOU WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER FOR ME... IN YOUR OWN UNIQUE WAY
WHAT UNIQUE WAY? WHAT CAN I DO THAT YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY TRIED—?
WAIT A MINUTE, THOUGH... I COULD TRY TO GET ON THE SHORT-LIST FOR HIS FIFTH WIFE!
YOU HAVE ANSWERED YOUR OWN QUESTION, MY DEAR
2857
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
I'LL NEED A PLAUSIBLE WAY OF MEETING THIS BARON RATH— HAVE YOU BUILT UP A DOSSIER ON HIM, RÉNÉ?
OF COURSE
WHAT DOES HE DO? WHAT ARE HIS INTERESTS? WHEN WE DO MEET, I'VE GOT TO HOOK HIS ATTENTION
YOU HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON WITH HIM, MODESTY...
HIS HOBBY IS THE ÉPÉE— AND HE IS MASTER OF IT
2858

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
PHILIPPE— INSTRUCTOR IN A SALLE D'ARMES...
MODESTY, MA CHÈRE! WHY HAVE YOU NEGLECTED US? I MISS MY BEST PUPIL!
YOU ARE UNDISCIPLINED AND UNORTHODOX, OF COURSE, BUT STILL MY BEST, NEVER CONTENT WITH A MERE TOUCH...
PHILIPPE, LISTEN— I'VE A FAVOUR TO ASK
WITH YOU IT MUST ALWAYS BE THE FULL-BLOODED HIT— AS IF YOUR LIFE DEPENDED UPON IT, YES?
2859
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
BARON RATH? YES, HE WILL BE HERE THIS MORNING
I WANT TO FENCE WITH HIM— CAN YOU ARRANGE IT?
JUST DO YOUR BEST, PHILIPPE ... AND LET HIM THINK I'M A NOVICE
IT WILL NOT BE EASY... I COULD ASK HIM TO GIVE YOU PRACTICE BECAUSE I AM BUSY, BUT—
YOU MIGHT FIND HIM MORE AGREEABLE IF YOU SAY I'M RICH BUT VERY BASHFUL
BASHFUL? YOU?
2860
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
I DO NOT FENCE WITH WOMEN— OR INSTRUCT NOVICES, PHILIPPE!
YOU ARE QUITE RIGHT, M'SIEU LE BARON— I ASK TOO MUCH OF YOU
THESE RICH WOMEN CAN BE SO BORING— AND SHE IS A MOUSE-LIKE CREATURE, IN SPITE OF HER LOOKS— TO FENCE IS PERHAPS A SEX-SUBSTITUTE FOR HER!
FORGIVE ME FOR MENTIONING THE MATTER
ONE MOMENT, PHILIPPE... I DO NOT WISH TO BE CHURLISH
2861
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
LET US TRY ONE FINAL PARRY OF OCTAVE, IF YOU PLEASE, MAM'SELLE BLAISE
BARON RATH INSTRUCTS A NERVOUS NOVICE... MODESTY BLAISE
OH-YES, I-I'LL TRY TO DO BETTER THIS TIME
THAT WAS AN IMPROVEMENT, MAM'SELLE— BUT YOU STILL USE THE WRIST TOO MUCH AND THE FINGERS TOO LITTLE
YOU'RE VERY KIND, M'SIEU... I-I'M EMBARRASSED TO HAVE TAKEN UP SO MUCH OF YOUR TIME
IT HAS BEEN MY PLEASURE— YOU HAVE GREAT POTENTIAL, MAM'SELLE
2862

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
I WAS ABOUT TO SUGGEST THAT WE CONTINUE YOUR INSTRUCTION TOMORROW, MAM'SELLE — BUT NO DOUBT YOU HAVE MANY FRIENDS AND MUCH TO OCCUPY YOU?
OH NO, NO, M'SIEU LE BARON! I — I SPEND MUCH OF MY TIME ALONE... IT WOULD BE SO KIND OF YOU
AN HOUR LATER...
RÉNÉ, I'VE CLICKED, AND WE HAVE TO TALK — BUT I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD BE SEEN TOGETHER
2863
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
OFF THE BEACH AT CANNES...
WAKE UP, RÉNÉ
MY GOD, I AM AWAKE! I FORGOT TO BRING SUNTAN LOTION, AND I AM ROASTING — I DISLIKE YOUR RENDEZVOUS, MODESTY
JUST A PRECAUTION... NOW LISTEN, I THINK YOU MAY BE RIGHT ABOUT THIS BLUEBEARD AFFAIR
2864
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
WHAT HAPPENED AT THE FENCING SALLE?
WHEN THE BARON HEARD I WAS RICH, UNATTACHED, AND A SHRINKING VIOLET, HIS LITTLE PINK HEART THROBBED WITH INTEREST
AND?
WE'RE FENCING AGAIN IN THE MORNING, AND I'M TO DINE WITH HIS FAMILY IN THE EVENING — THE POINT IS, DO YOU WANT ME TO WARN HIS WIFE?
MEANWHILE, AT THE VILLA BEAUMARIS...
I MAY SOON HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR YOU, MY DEARS
WHAT IS IT, PAPA?
2865
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
TODAY I MET A YOUNG WOMAN CALLED MODESTY BLAISE... A VERY SUITABLE YOUNG WOMAN
OH, PAPA! YOU DON'T MEAN—?
YES, HORTENSE... I KNOW WE HAVE NOT YET DISPOSED OF YOUR PRESENT DEAR STEP-MAMMA, BUT I THINK MAM'SELLE BLAISE IS AN EXCELLENT PROSPECT FOR THE NEXT ONE
SHE HAS THE GREAT VIRTUE OF BEING RICH... AND THOUGH SHE IS BEAUTIFUL, WHICH MAKES A CHANGE, SHE IS MEEK AND WITHOUT SPIRIT
HOW SPLENDID, PAPA!
2866

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
MODESTY TALKS WITH RÉNÉ VAUBOIS
WE'RE STILL ONLY GUESSING—AND IF I TELL THE POOR WOMAN HER HUSBAND'S A BLUEBEARD WHO PLANS TO KILL HER, SHE MIGHT THINK I'M CRAZY
MODESTY, I HAVE COMPLETE FAITH IN YOUR JUDGMENT—JUST DO WHAT YOU THINK BEST WHEN THE TIME COMES
THANKS!
THAT'S JUST PEACHY. IF I DON'T COME BACK, CHECK THE NEAREST ASYLUM
2867
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
WHEN WILL YOU CONTACT ME AGAIN, MODESTY?
TOMORROW AT YOUR HOTEL—AFTER I'VE DINED AT THE BARON'S VILLA...
...I MUST GO NOW, RÉNÉ, THERE'S A CIRCUS ON, JUST PAST TOULON, AND I DON'T WANT TO MISS IT
A CIRCUS?
2868
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
MODESTY MAKES A LONG RUN WESTWARD DOWN THE COAST TO A SMALL TOWN BEYOND TOULON . . .
AND THERE...
'OLD STILL, ETHEL, OR I'LL 'AVE YOUR FEET FOR DOORSTOPS! 'OW CAN I MAKE YOU PRETTY WHEN YOU KEEP FIDGETING?
WILLIE!
WILLIE!
2869
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
MODESTY TOWS THE POWER-BOAT IN . . .
'ALLO, PRINCESS—I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'D LOOK ME UP
WHY THE VOLGA BOATMAN ACT?
I DON'T WANT TO STAMPEDE YOUR FRIENDS—INTRODUCE ME, WILLIE LOVE
ETHEL, MARGOT AND CHLOE—SAY 'ALLO NICELY, GIRLS
2870

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
HAVING A NICE NOSTALGIC HOLIDAY, WILLIE?
WELL, WHEN YOU'VE WORKED IN A CIRCUS FOR A BIT, LIKE I DID...
YOU 'UNGER FOR THE SMELL OF THE GREASE-PAINT, THE ROAR OF THE CROWD, DON'T YOU CHLOE?
TELL YOU THE TRUTH, THOUGH, I GOT A LITTLE PROBLEM WITH A GIRL 'ERE—
AGAIN? NO, LISTEN TO MY PROBLEM FIRST, WILLIE—IT'S DIFFERENT
2871
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
MODESTY RETURNS TO THE CIRCUS WITH WILLIE . . .
...SO THAT'S THE STORY, WILLIE—RENÉ VAUBOIS IS AFRAID HIS NIECE WILL GO THE SAME WAY BARON RATH'S OTHER WIVES WENT
CIRCL
WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST TIME A BLOKE'S DONE IN A STRING OF 'EM FOR THEIR MONEY
IN THE BIG TOP...
CAN YOU RECCE THE VILLA WHILE I'M DINING WITH HIM TOMORROW?
SURE, PRINCESS
HA!
2872
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
WEELIE!
OH BLIMEY, 'ERE'S ROSA
THE LITTLE PROBLEM YOU MENTIONED?
'OO IS THEES WOMAN? WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH HER?
NOTHING, ROSA! SHE'S MY-ER-MY LAWYER, FROM ENGLAND
LAWYER? WHY YOU NEED YOUR LAWYER FOR US TO GET MARRIED, HEY?
NOW STEADY, ROSA, DON'T LET'S RUSH THINGS...
2873
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
I 'AVE GIVE MY ALL TO YOU, WEELIE! IF YOU DON'T MARRY ME NOW, I AM DIS-HONOURED!
...AND MY BRUZZERS, THEY WILL CUT OUT YOUR 'OT LEETLE 'EART WITH A BLUNT KNIFE!
REMEMBER!
WHERE DOES A GIRL GET THESE OLD-FASHIONED IDEAS?
FROM HER OLD-FASHIONED BRUZZERS, I SUPPOSE
2874

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
YOU'VE BEEN SIPPING HONEY FROM THE WRONG FLOWER THIS TIME, WILLIE LOVE...
THREE HOT-BLOODED TURKS, JEALOUS FOR THEIR SISTER'S HONOUR—OH DEAR! HAVE THEY SAID ANYTHING?
NEVER 'EARD 'EM SPEAK YET ...BUT THEY GLARE AT ME SOMETHING 'ORRIBLE!
WELL, YOU CAN MARRY HER, GET DONE BY HER BROTHERS—OR RUN! NOW CAN WE GET BACK TO MY LITTLE PROBLEM?
SURE... I'LL BE AT THIS BLUEBEARD'S VILLA TOMORROW NIGHT, PRINCESS
2875
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
HERE'S WHERE RENÉ VAUBOIS IS STAYING—YOU DO YOUR RECCE WHILE I'M DINING WITH THE BARON, AND WE'LL MEET THERE AFTERWARDS
RIGHT...
GO ON, MOCK POOR OLD WILLIE! I TELL YOU—AFTER TONIGHT, I WON'T BE 'ERE!
CHEER UP, WILLIE—IF ROSA'S BROTHERS MAKE YOU MARRY HER, THEY MIGHT TAKE YOU INTO THE ACT
2876
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
IN HIS CARAVAN, WILLIE GARVIN HAS NIGHTMARES ABOUT THE FIERY ROSA...
UNNNNGH..!
...AND ABOUT HER BROTHERS, SO JEALOUS FOR HER HONOUR
OOOOGH!
AT DAWN...
I'LL PICK A GIRL FROM WOMAN'S LIB NEXT TIME—THEY WOULDN'T WANT TO MARRY A CHAUVINIST MALE PIG LIKE ME
2877
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
BARON RATH BRINGS A GUEST TO HIS VILLA... A SHY, TIMID CREATURE
I-I HOPE YOUR FAMILY WILL LIKE ME, MSIEU LE BARON
PLEASE CALL ME FELIX, MY DEAR... AND I HOPE I MAY CALL YOU MODESTY
...I AM SURE MY SWEET-NATURED DAUGHTERS WILL BE ENCHANTED
...I ONLY REGRET THAT MY DEAR WIFE, THEIR STEP-MAMMA, IS CONFINED TO HER BED AT THE MOMENT
2878
WILLIE GARVIN WATCHES...

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THE OUTER WALL OF THE VILLA BEAUMARIS CURVES THROUGH THE FOREST . . .

BLOKE WITH A GUARD-DOG ON THE GATES... ELECTRONIC-BEAM ALARMS ON THE WALLS...

AND INSIDE...

WHAT BEAUTIFUL JEWELS, MODESTY

OH-ER-NOT REALLY-I JUST BRING SMALL PIECES ON HOLIDAY WITH ME

2879

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

MODESTY, I PRESENT MY DEAR LITTLE DAUGHTERS, HORTENSE AND CELESTE

ENCHANTÉ, MAM'SELLE

OH, M'SIEU-I-I MEAN FELIX... HOW **PROUD** YOU MUST BE OF THEM

THEY'RE **CREEPY!** TURN THEM OVER AND YOU'D GET SPIDERS RUNNING OUT...

2880

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

AT DINNER...

YES-HE'S VERY KIND TO HELP ME-I'M JUST A CLUMSY NOVICE

PAPA TELLS US HE MET YOU AT THE FENCING SALLE

THE EPÉE IS THE DESCENDANT OF THE OLD DUELLING RAPIER-NOT AN EASY WEAPON FOR A WOMAN

PERHAPS MISS BLAISE COULD SOMETIMES PRACTISE WITH YOU **HERE**, PAPA?

OUTSIDE, WILLIE MAKES HIS RECCE...

NO EASY WAY IN THROUGH THE GATES OR OVER THE WALL-I'LL 'AVE A LOOK AT THE BAY

2881

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

AT THE FOOT OF THE CLIFFS, WILLIE STUDIES THE VILLA THROUGH NIGHT-GLASSES

LOOKS LIKE A BOAT-'OUSE OF SOME SORT, RUNNING UNDER THE CLIFF

STEEL DOORS... WONDER IF THEY'RE LOCKED? BETTER GO AN' CHECK

2882

IN THE VILLA...

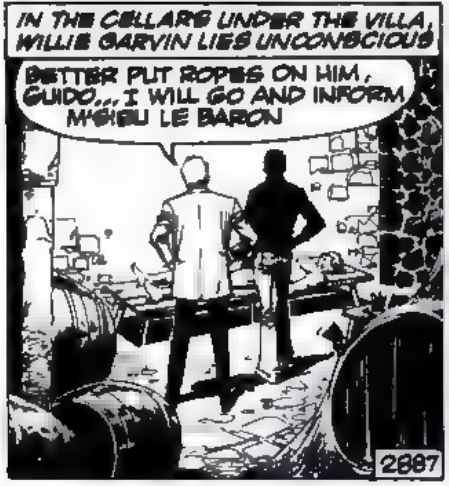
I SUGGEST WE HAVE COFFEE AND BRANDY SERVED IN THE DRAWING ROOM

PERHAPS MISS BLAISE WOULD LIKE TO TIDY UP, PAPA-I'LL SHOW HER TO THE GUEST SUITE

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
I-I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE A NUISANCE TO ANYBODY
I'LL WAIT IN THE HALL, IN CASE YOU LOSE YOUR WAY... OH, I DO HOPE DEAR PAPA INVITES YOU TO STAY WITH US SOON
ALONE, MODESTY RELAXES FOR A FEW MOMENTS
WELL... NOW WHAT? HOW THE HELL DO I FIND OUT IF THE BARON PLANS TO KILL HIS WIFE?
DOWN IN THE BAY, WILLIE GARVIN EXAMINES THE BOAT-HOUSE DOORS
SLIDING DOORS... HEAVY STEEL, AND LOCKED SOLID... YOU'D NEED GELIGNITE TO GET PAST 'EM
2883
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
ON HIS RETURN, WILLIE KEEPS TO THE EDGE OF THE BAY
PRETTY SHALLOW 'ERE... I COULD CARRY A BIT OF GEAR TO TACKLE THOSE BOAT-'OUSE DOORS IF NEED BE
UHH!
STUN-DART! I BEEN NOBBLED—
AS HE REACHES THE POINT, THERE COMES A SOFT EXPLOSION, AND AN ANAESTHETIC DART EMBEDS ITSELF IN HIS SHOULDER
THE BLADE CLEARS ITS SHEATH, BUT BEFORE WILLIE CAN THROW HE IS ENGULFED BY DARKNESS
AN INQUISITIVE FELLOW... THE BARON WILL BE MOST INTERESTED
2884
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
WONDER HOW WILLIE'S GETTING ON WITH HIS RECCE...? I MIGHT HAVE TO MAKE AN UNOFFICIAL VISIT ONE NIGHT TO TALK TO NICOLE
A FRENZIED WHISPER FROM THE OPEN TRANSOM
Mam'selle!
ARE YOU—?
IT'S HER —IT MUST BE!
Shhh! I dare not stay a second! Take this message — say nothing to THEM! Read it later — for God's sake BELIEVE it, and send help!
2885
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
MISS BLAISE WEARS A FORTUNE IN JEWELS, PAPA — THE SOONER OUR PRESENT STEP-MAMMA IS DROWNED AND THIS ONE REPLACES HER, THE BETTER
YOU SPEAK MY THOUGHT, HORTENSE
AH, MODESTY...
I WAS TELLING CELESTE HOW SORRY I AM TO MISS MEETING YOUR WIFE ON THIS OCCASION
ONCE HER MIGRAINE HAS PASSED, THE SUN AND THE SEA WILL QUICKLY RESTORE HER
YES — WE HAVE GREAT FAITH IN SEA-WATER AS A REMEDY FOR ALL ILLS
2886

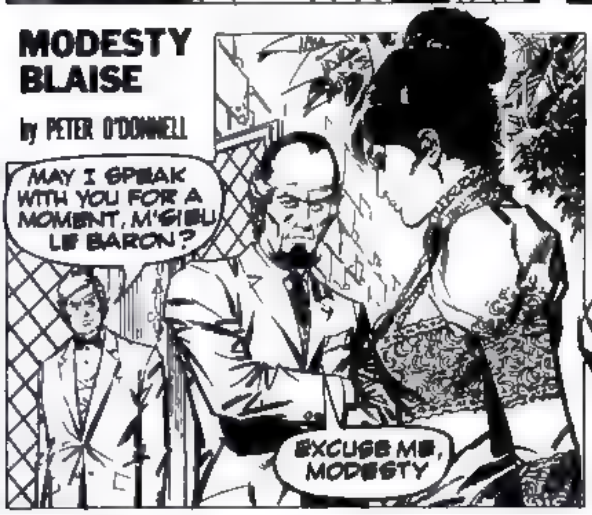
MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL


IN THE CELLARS UNDER THE VILLA, WILLIE GARVIN LIES UNCONSCIOUS
BETTER PUT ROPES ON HIM, GUIDO... I WILL GO AND INFORM M'GIEU LE BARON
2887

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL



2888
WE SHALL INSIST THAT PAPA INVITES YOU AGAIN
AND WE'LL SHOW YOU OUR PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM NEXT TIME
PHOTOGRAPHS! OH, HOW LOVELY

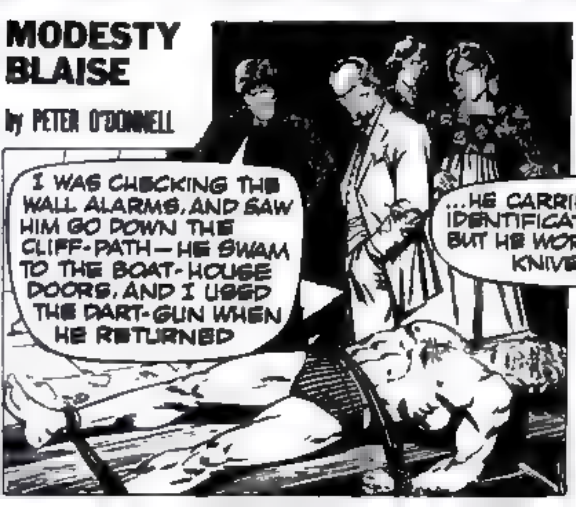
MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

OH, PLEASE GO TO HER AT ONCE — I SHALL BE QUITE ALL RIGHT WITH YOUR CHAUFFEUR
I AM DESOLATED NOT TO BE ESCORTING YOU HOME, BUT MY POOR WIFE IS ASKING FOR ME —

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL


I WAS CHECKING THE WALL ALARMS, AND SAW HIM GO DOWN THE CLIFF-PATH — HE SWAM TO THE BOAT-HOUSE DOORS, AND I USED THE DART-GUN WHEN HE RETURNED
...HE CARRIES NO IDENTIFICATION, BUT HE WORE THESE KNIVES!

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
WILL YOU QUESTION HIM WHEN HE WAKES, PAPA?
I SEE NO POINT IN WASTING TIME ON HIM, MY DEAR...
YES! A REHEARSAL FOR WHEN WE DROWN OUR DEAR STEP-MAMMA, CELESTE!
WHATEVER HE WAS DOING, HE MIGHT HAVE DROWNED IN THE BAY— LET US ARRANGE THAT HE DOES SO
AN HOUR LATER, AT RÉNÉ VAUBOIS' HOTEL . . .
2891
AH, MODESTY— YOU ARE THE FIRST
WILLIE'S LATE, THEN... I CHANGED BEFORE I CAME ON FROM THE YACHT —HE SHOULDN'T BE MUCH LONGER
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
MODESTY TELLS HOW SHE SPOKE WITH NICOLE FOR A FEW BRIEF SECONDS
SHE'S ALMOST OUT OF HER MIND WITH FEAR, AND SHE GAVE ME THAT NOTE
"MY HUSBAND AND STEP-DAUGHTERS PLAN TO MURDER ME BY DROWNING— FOR PITY'S SAKE SEND THE POLICE TO BRING ME AWAY BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE"
...SO MY SUSPICIONS WERE CORRECT
YES, RÉNÉ — BUT YOU CAN'T ACCUSE HIM... THAT NOTE PROVES NOTHING AT ALL
2892
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
IF YOU TRY TO TAKE NICOLE FROM BARON RATH OFFICIALLY, BY PRODUCING THAT NOTE, HE'LL SIMPLY CLAIM THAT SHE'S SUFFERING FROM DELUSIONS
AND HIS SERVANTS WILL BACK HIM— THEY'RE IN IT WITH HIM
I HAVE PLANNED MANY OPERATIONS, BUT NOW PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT SEEMS TO HAVE EMPTIED MY BRAIN...
WHAT SHOULD WE DO UNOFFICIALLY?
SNATCH THE POOR WOMAN OUT OF THERE BEFORE RATH KILLS HER OR SHE GOES GENUINELY INSANE
2893
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
TIME CREEPS BY, AND STILL THERE IS NO SIGN OF WILLIE GARVIN
TWO A.M. AND I HAVE A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN MY ROOM... YOU HAVE THOROUGHLY COMPROMISED ME, MODESTY
DON'T BE ANGRY, MY DEAR ...I WAS SIMPLY TRYING TO JOKE BECAUSE I AM WORRIED
I'M NOT ANGRY, I'M WORRIED TOO— AND I'M GOING BACK
BACK TO THE VILLA BEAUMARIS?
YES— WILLIE ISN'T JUST DELAYED, HE'D HAVE PHONED BY NOW... HE'S IN TROUBLE, RÉNÉ, HE MUST BE
2894

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
MAM'SELLE?
ON MODESTY'S YACHT...
I WANT ALL THIS GEAR LOADED INTO THE POWER-BOAT PLEASE, MAURICE
SURELY WILLIE HAS NOT BEEN CAUGHT RECONNOITRING THE VILLA?
MAYBE — WE ALL GET UNLUCKY SOMETIMES
I'LL TRY TO GET INTO THE VILLA FROM THE BAY — DON'T WAIT UP FOR ME, RENÉ
WAIT UP? I AM COMING WITH YOU
2896
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
IN THE VILLA BEAUMARIG, WILLIE GARVIN COMES ROUND ...AND TAKES TIME TO THINK BEFORE HE SPEAKS DAZEDLY
MODESTY AND VAUBOIS HEAD DOWN THE COAST...
WHERE... AM I? LAST THING I REMEMBER... IS GOING FOR A MOONLIGHT SWIM
LIAR!
BEAST! SEX-MANIAC! YOU MEANT TO BREAK IN AND ASSAULT US LIKE A MAD DOG!
BLIMEY... NO! DEFINITELY!
2896
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
CUT HIM FREE SO THAT HE CAN GET DRESSED, CELESTE
THANKS, THAT'S — UM — VERY NICE OF YOU GIRLS —
AND DO IT LYING DOWN, YOU — YOU LUST-CRAZED FIEND! OR I'LL BLOW YOUR HEAD OFF!
ER... DO WHAT LYING DOWN?
DRESS, IMBECILE!
OH - SURE, SURE! GLAD TO!
2897
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
WILLIE MANAGES TO DRESS, LYING DOWN AS ORDERED
DON'T TRY TO SEDUCE US!
PRAPS WE COULD 'AVE A LITTLE CHAT, SO I CAN EXPLAIN-
NO! WE KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH A BERSERK MONSTER WHO COMES TO SLAKE HIS VILE PASSIONS ON US!
STAND UP — HANDS ON HEAD!
I'M DREAMING IT... I MUST BE
2898

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

LOOK-UM... SOME SHOT-GUNS 'AVE VERY LIGHT TRIGGERS, AND THEY ALL MAKE A VERY BIG 'OLE, SO—
SO BE VERY CAREFUL! NOW WALK SLOWLY DOWN THOSE STEPS
MUST BE NEARLY DAWN... WONDER WHERE THE PRINCESS IS...?
HALF A MILE FROM THE BAY, MODESTY MOORS THE POWER-BOAT AND INFLATES A SMALL DINGHY. . .
WE'LL HAVE TO PADDLE THE LAST BIT, RÈNÉ — CAN'T RISK ANY NOISE
2899

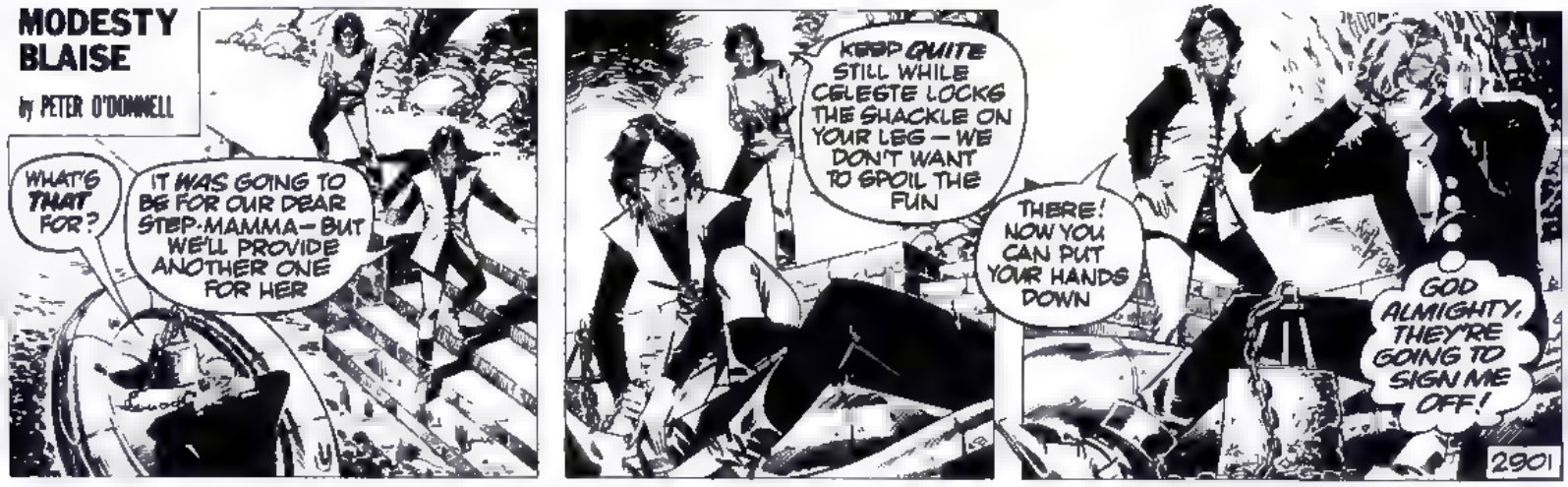
MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

WILLIE IS TAKEN DOWN INTO THE BIG NATURAL BOAT-HOUSE UNDER THE VILLA
GET IN THE RUBBER DINGHY
NOW LOOK, I'M ALL FOR A NICE BOAT TRIP WITH TWO LOVELY GIRLS, BUT CAN'T WE 'AVE A LITTLE TALK FIRST?
BETTER TO SHOOT HIM, PERHAPS, HORTENSE
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, I'M GOING! IT WAS ONLY A SUGGESTION!
2900

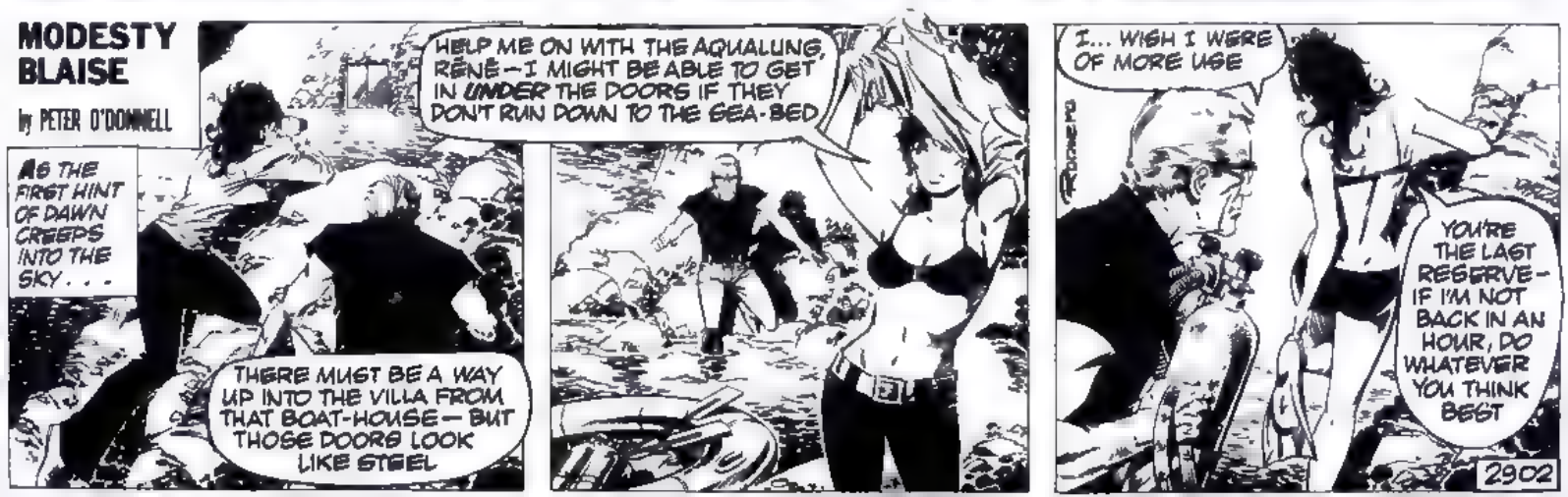
MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL


WHAT'S THAT FOR?
IT WAS GOING TO BE FOR OUR DEAR STEP-MAMMA — BUT WE'LL PROVIDE ANOTHER ONE FOR HER
KEEP QUITE STILL WHILE CELESTE LOCKS THE SHACKLE ON YOUR LEG — WE DON'T WANT TO SPOIL THE FUN
THERE! NOW YOU CAN PUT YOUR HANDS DOWN
GOD ALMIGHTY, THEY'RE GOING TO SIGN ME OFF!
2901

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL


AS THE FIRST HINT OF DAWN CREEPS INTO THE SKY . . .
HELP ME ON WITH THE AQUALUNG, RÈNÉ — I MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET IN UNDER THE DOORS IF THEY DON'T RUN DOWN TO THE SEA-BED
THERE MUST BE A WAY UP INTO THE VILLA FROM THAT BOAT-HOUSE — BUT THOSE DOORS LOOK LIKE STEEL
I... WISH I WERE OF MORE USE
YOU'RE THE LAST RESERVE — IF I'M NOT BACK IN AN HOUR, DO WHATEVER YOU THINK BEST
2902

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

AS MODESTY MOVES INTO THE WATER...

Wait! The boat-house doors are opening!

A LAUNCH MOVES OUT, TOWING A RUBBER DINGHY...

Look! Willie Garvin is in the dinghy— he's just SITTING there!

What the hell..?

2903

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THE WATER'S DEEP ENOUGH HERE, HORTENSE

THANK YOU, DEAR

HORTENSE AND CELESTE TOW THE DINGHY TO THE MIDDLE OF THE BAY

IS THAT A SPEAR-GUN-?

OH GOD, SHE'S FIRED! WAIT THOUGH— SHE WASN'T HIT WILLIE, SHE FIRED INTO THE DINGHY

WILLIE GARVIN STARES HELPLESSLY AT THE BLOCK OF CONCRETE, THE HEAVY IRON SHACKLE, AND THE COLLAPSING RIM OF THE PUNCTURED DINGHY

I'M COOKED... A GONER...

2904

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THERE! IT'S WORKING BEAUTIFULLY!

YE-E-ES... BUT IT WOULD BE BETTER IF IT WASN'T SO QUICK

...PERHAPS WE SHOULD JUST MAKE A SMALL PUNCTURE WHEN WE COME TO DROWN OUR DEAR STEP-MAMMA

AMID THE ROCKS ON THE POINT, EIGHTY YARDS AWAY

HE'S SHACKLED TO A BLOCK OF CONCRETE, MODESTY! THEY'RE DROWNING HIM!

MOVE YOUR ARM! I'VE GOT TO GET A COMPASS BEARING

2905

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THE DINGHY SINKS...

AND WILLIE GARVIN GOES DOWN IN TWENTY FEET OF WATER, SHACKLED TO THE BLOCK OF CONCRETE

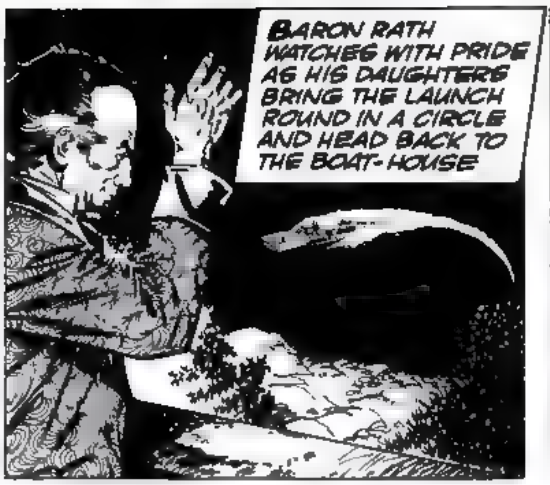
OH, WASN'T THAT FUN!

LOVELY! AND LOOK, THERE'S DEAR PAPA— HE MUST HAVE GOT UP EARLY SPECIALLY TO WATCH

2906

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL



AND MODESTY DRIVES THROUGH THE WATER WITH ALL THE SPEED SHE CAN MUSTER
WATCH THE COMPASS... IF YOU DON'T FIND WILLIE FIRST TIME, HE'S DEAD...
2907

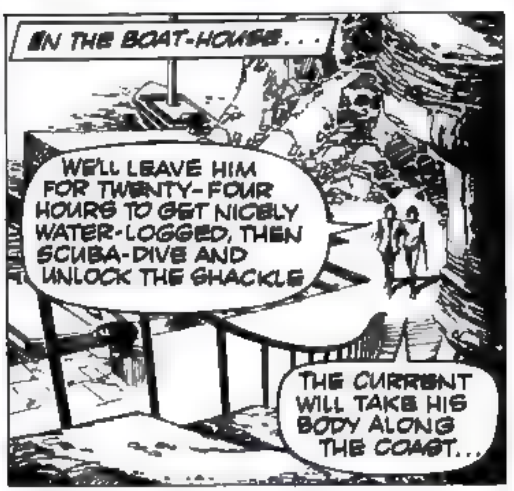
MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

WILLIE'S CHEST IS RACKED BY THE AGONY OF HOLDING HIS BREATH... THE BLOOD ROARS IN HIS HEAD... THE LAST OF HIS STRENGTH DRAINS AWAY...

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL


IN THE BOAT-HOUSE...
WE'LL LEAVE HIM FOR TWENTY-FOUR HOURS TO GET NICELY WATER-LOGGED, THEN SCUBA-DIVE AND UNLOCK THE SHACKLE
THE CURRENT WILL TAKE HIS BODY ALONG THE COAST...

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

AS MODESTY AND WILLIE BREATHE ALTERNATELY FOR THIRTY SECONDS EACH, SHE SQUEEZES A MESSAGE IN MORSE ON HIS SHOULDER
T-A-K-E L-U-N-G... B-A-C-K S-O-O-N

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

MODESTY INHALES FOR A FULL MINUTE TO OXYGENATE THE BLOOD-STREAM. . .

THANKS, PRINCESS...

THEN STARTS THE EIGHTY-YARD SWIM TO THE POINT

GOT TO STAY SUBMERGED... MIGHT BE BEEN FROM THE VILLA IF I SURFACE

TWO MINUTES LATER, A SPLASH BRINGS VAUBOIS' HEAD ROUND WITH A JERK...

MODESTY! GOD, I'VE BEEN WORRIED—

WILLIE'S SAFE... I GOT TO HIM WITH THE AQUALUNG JUST IN TIME

2911

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

HOW LONG WILL THE AIR IN THE AQUALUNG LAST?

LONG ENOUGH, RENÉ...

I'VE GOT A HACKSAW IN THE TOOL-KIT HERE, AND IT WON'T TAKE MORE THAN FIFTEEN MINUTES TO CUT THROUGH WILLIE'S SHACKLE

IF RATH OR HIS DAUGHTERS SEE YOU—

THEY WON'T... I CAN GET THERE ON ONE BREATH WITHOUT SURFACING, AND THEN I TAKE TURNS WITH WILLIE ON THE AIR-HOSE

2912

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

TEN MINUTES WORK WITH A HACKSAW ON THE HEAVY IRON CHAIN. . .

NEARLY THROUGH..

THEN, STILL TAKING TURNS TO BREATHE FROM THE AQUALUNG, MODESTY AND WILLIE HEAD FOR THE POINT

'MORNING, WILLIE LOVE

'ALLO, PRINCESS... NICE TO BE ABLE TO SAY "THANKS"

2913

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

AS THE DINGHY IS PADDLED TO WHERE THE POWER-BOAT LIES MOORED, WILLIE TELLS HIS STORY...

...THOSE TWO, HORTENSE AND CELESTE, THEY'D MAKE ***DRACULA'S*** BLOOD CREEP, HONEST.'

THAT DROWNING CAPER THEY WORKED ON ME... IT WAS A ***REHEARSAL*** FOR WHEN THEY KNOCK OFF THEIR STEP-MA.'

WHAT WITH ROSA AT THE CIRCUS, YOU'RE GETTING A LOT OF AGGRAVATION FROM FEMALES LATELY, WILLIE.

IF IT GOES ON LIKE THIS, I MIGHT TAKE 'OLY ORDERS.

2914

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

ON MODESTY'S YACHT... A STEWARD WAKES RÉNÉ VAUBOIS

WHAT TIME IS IT? HOW LONG HAVE I SLEPT?

FIVE HOURS, M'SIEU, AND IT IS ALMOST NOON ... I HAVE BROUGHT YOU SOME ORANGE JUICE.

WE ARE MOVING!

MAM'SELLE WAITS FOR YOU ON DECK, M'SIEU ... PLEASE BORROW FROM THESE CLOTHES OF M'SIEU GARVIN'S WHILE YOURS ARE CLEANED.

WILLIE, I'VE GOT AN IDEA... BUT WE'LL NEED HELP FROM YOUR CIRCUS FRIENDS, ESPECIALLY ROSA'S BROTHERS.

EH?

2915

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

MODESTY, WHY ARE WE AT SEA?

PARTLY SO THAT THERE'S NO CHANCE OF BARON RATH SPOTTING WILLIE — WHO'S SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD.

... SIT DOWN AND HAVE SOME LUNCH, RÉNÉ.

BUT I SHOULD BE BUSY! WE HAVE COMPLETE PROOF OF ATTEMPTED MURDER NOW — SO I CAN TAKE OFFICIAL ACTION.

THAT'S ANOTHER REASON WHY WE'RE AT SEA, RÉNÉ — TO STOP YOU DOING JUST THAT.

2916

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

I SEE...

RATH AND HIS DAUGHTERS TRIED TO KILL WILLIE IN A PARTICULARLY HORRIBLE WAY — SO YOU WISH TO DEAL OUT YOUR OWN JUSTICE?

WRONG, RÉNÉ...

WE'RE FAIR GAME, MATE — BUT NICOLE ISN'T.

THE VILLA'S A FORTRESS, AND THAT CRAZY FAMILY COULD DO ANYTHING IF THE POLICE SHOW UP AT THE GATES.

WE JUST WANT TO GET HER OUT SAFELY... AFTER THAT, BLUEBEARD AND HIS CREEPY DAUGHTERS ARE ALL YOURS.

I AM BAFFLED — BUT GRATEFUL.

2917

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

HAVE YOU A PLAN FOR GETTING INTO THE VILLA BEAUMARIS?

THE MAIN IDEA IS TO REACH NICOLE AND GET HER OUT SAFELY...

I'LL GO IN AT THE FRONT, WILLIE AT THE BACK.

BUT NOW? THE WALLS BRISTLE WITH ALARMS, AND THE BOATHOUSE DOORS EXTEND DOWN TO THE SEA BED, SO WILLIE TELLS US.

THEREFORE HE CANNOT PASS UNDER THEM.

ALL THE SAME, WE'LL BE GOING IN — TONIGHT.

2918

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
WHAT PART DO YOU WISH ME TO PLAY IN THIS OPERATION?
GO BACK TO YOUR HOTEL AND STAND BY THE TELEPHONE FROM MIDNIGHT ONWARDS, PLEASE RENÉ.
HOW SHALL I GET THERE... SWIM?
IF YOU INSIST -BUT THE YACHT'S RETURNING TO CANNES NOW, ANYWAY.
Romero
...WILLIE AND I ARE GOING ASHORE HERE TO SEE A CIRCUS.
CIRCUS? AGAIN..?
2919
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
AT THE CIRCUS, THE FIERY AND ROMANTIC ROSA SWOOPS.
WEELIE! I 'AVE BEEN SAYING YOU ARE A RAT 'OO RUN OUT ON ME.'
LET'S HEAR YOU GET OUT OF THIS ONE, WILLIE LOVE.'
I WAS GOING TO SEND MY BRUZZERS AFTER YOU, TO CHOP YOU IN LEETLE PIECES -- BUT NOW YOU 'AVE COME BACK TO MARRY ME, YES?
WHY ELSE? YOU TALK TO YOUR BROTHERS...
Romero
TELL 'EM TO COOL DOWN, ROSA -- I'M JUST GOING TO SEE THE BOSS ABOUT GETTING A FEW DAYS OFF, SEE?
FOR OUR 'ONEYMOON, OF COURSE.'
2920
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
IN THE CIRCUS BOSS'S CARAVAN...
IS GREAT.' IS MARVELLOUS.' I LEND YOU AN ELEPHANT, AND I FEEX FOR THIS LADY TO PRACTISE WEETH THE AZIZ BROTHERS.'
THAT'S ALL, GEORGI -- I'LL DO THE SAME FOR YOU SOMETIME.
FANTASTIC.' I GET A RAIN-CHECK TO BORROW AN ELEPHANT, THEN I LIVE 'APPY EVER AFTER, HEY?
WILLIE MUST KNOW WHAT HE'S DOING, BUT WHY DOESN'T HE START TALKING MONEY?
Romero
2921
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
GEORGI, ARE YOU AN' ME GOING TO QUARREL ABOUT A LITTLE FAVOUR?
SO OKAY.' TAKE THE GODDAM ELEPHANT.' HAVE MY ACROBATS WASTE TIME PRACTISING WEETH YOUR FRIEN'.'
GO AHEAD, RUIN MY CIRCUS.' WHY DON'T YOU CUT OFF MY ARMS AND LEGS, HEY?
BECAUSE WILLIE LOVES GEORGI.'
I'LL TAKE ROSA OUT FOR THE AFTERNOON, AND YOU TELL THE AZIZ BROTHERS TO RE'EARSE WITH MISS BLAISE -- THEY'RE NOT TOO KEEN ON ME.'
Romero
2922

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
FOR A PART-TIME ELEPHANT-WASHER, YOU LEANED ON YOUR EMPLOYER PRETTY HARD, WILLIE— I DIDN'T THINK HE'D LEND US AN ELEPHANT AND SOME ACROBATS WITHOUT A FAT FEE!
MODESTY AND WILLIE LEAVE THE CIRCUS BOSS . . .
IT'S GOOD FOR LABOUR-RELATIONS ... BESIDES, I'VE OWNED FIFTY-ONE PERCENT OF THE CIRCUS FOR A LONG TIME NOW
YOU... WHAT?
I'LL BE DAMNED... AFTER ALL THESE YEARS YOU CAN STILL SURPRISE ME, WILLIE
LET'S 'OPE WE CAN SURPRISE BARON BLUEBEARD AND 'IS RIB-TICKLING DAUGHTERS TONIGHT
2923
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
MODESTY WORKS-OUT WITH ROSA'S BROTHERS
FIRST WE TRY WIZ NET— TO FIND HOW MUCH HEAVY YOU ARE
WE SEE HOW HIGH YOU GO OP WHEN HE YUMP DOWN, YES?
I WANT TO GO OP PRETTY HIGH, ABDUL
YOU BETTER BE GOOD ACROBAT, LADY, OR YOU BREAK NECK
CHEER OP, ABDUL— JUST TELL HIM TO YUMP
2924
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
THROUGHOUT THE AFTERNOON, MODESTY PRACTISES WITH THE AZIZ BROTHERS . . .
IS OKAY— BUT MORE HARD WHEN YOU MUST LAND ON MY SHOULDERS
THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANT, ABDUL...
I WANT MORE HEIGHT AND DISTANCE—AND A TRAPEZE TO CATCH WHEN I'M AT THE HIGHEST POINT
2925
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
EVENING AT THE VILLA BEAUMARIS
I DO COMMEND YOU ON THE WAY YOU DROWNED THAT FELLOW THIS MORNING, MY LITTLE GIRLS
WILL YOU LEAVE HIM AT THE BOTTOM OF THE BAY?
NO, PAPA, WE'LL UNLOCK THE SHACKLE TOMORROW AND HE'LL FLOAT AWAY— IT'S OUR DUTY TO AVOID POLLUTION
THAT REMINDS ME, HORTENSE— HE WORE BOOTS, BUT WHEN WE DROWN STEP-MAMMA WE MUST BE CAREFUL THAT THE ANKLE-SHACKLE DOESN'T LEAVE ANY MARKS!
2926

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
TOWARDS MIDNIGHT...
I THINK I SHALL GO TO BED— I WISH TO BE AT MY BEST WHEN I MEET MODESTY BLAISE AT THE FENCING SALLE TOMORROW
SHE'S JUST RIGHT FOR YOUR NEXT WIFE, PAPA... SO TIMID AND SHRINKING
WE MUST THINK OF A SPECIAL WAY TO DISPOSE OF HER
OH, COME NOW, CHILD— THAT MUST WAIT FOR A YEAR OR TWO, AND TAKE PLACE IN ANOTHER COUNTRY
WHERE THERE ARE POISONOUS SNAKES, PERHAPS...
2927
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
IN THE EARLY HOURS, WILLIE GARVIN AND FRIEND MOVE ROUND THE EDGE OF THE BAY...
Nice and quiet, Chloe...
Once we get to the boat-'ouse doors you can make all the noise you like
It's our job to keep everyone busy at the back while the Princess sneaks in at the front, see?
Romero
2928
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
MODESTY SCOUTS THE OUTER WALL OF THE VILLA, AND CHOOSES HER SPOT...
This way, Abdul
There's a tree that looks suitable just beyond the wall—we'll have to JUDGE the distance
Lady, you so pretty and so NUTS! But the boss tell us, do what you say, so we do... but is YOUR neck!
2929
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
THE AZIZ BROTHERS SET UP THEIR EQUIPMENT CAREFULLY...
Leetle more near to wall...
Good! Is nice tree-branch on uzzer side — but not so easy like trapeze!
I noping you catch okay, lady
I noping too, Abdul... let's find out
Romero
2930

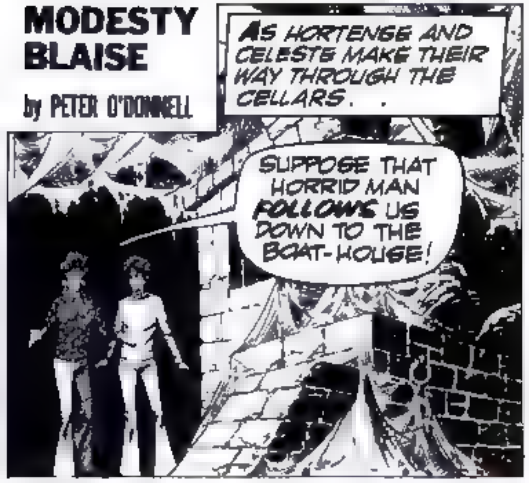
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
IN THE BAY...
Get your 'ead down and shove, Chloe me old darling
THE STEEL DOORS OF THE BOAT-HOUSE BEND, THEN CRASH INWARDS WITH A GREAT CLANGOUR AS THE TRACK IN WHICH THEY SLIDE IS TORN FROM THE ROCK. . .
WHAT THE DEVIL-?
2931
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
IN THE BOAT-HOUSE
You wait 'ere, Chloe—and what's this, eh? A nice bun for a good girl!
AND IN THE VILLA ABOVE...
WHAT IS HAPPENING, PAPA?
GET DRESSED QUICKLY! SOMEBODY HAS BROKEN IN—PIERRE IS CHECKING THE ALARMS NOW
M'SIEU LE BARON—THEY HAVE BROKEN THROUGH THE BOAT-HOUSE DOORS
VERY WELL—HAVE BRUNO COVER THE GROUNDS WITH HIS DOG, EVERYONE ELSE TO GATHER IN THE MAIN HALL
2932
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
Ready Abdul, and DON'T shout "HUP!"
Always I shout "HUP!" ..Thees time I just THEENK it
WHILE WILLIE MAKES A NOISY DIVERSION, MODESTY PREPARES TO MOVE IN SILENTLY
HUP!
MODESTY SOARS HIGH OVER THE WALL, CLEARING THE ELECTRONIC-BEAM ALARMS..
2933
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
WILLIE SHOULD BE INSIDE AND KEEPING THEM BUSY BY NOW...
MODESTY MOVES THROUGH THE GROUNDS
GUIDO, YOU WILL COVER THE ACCESS FROM THE CELLARS TO THE KITCHENS—
PAPA! L-LOOK THERE!
IT—IT IS HIM! WE LEFT HIM DEAD ON THE SEA-BED!
2934
WISH I'D THOUGHT TO DRAPE A BIT OF SEAWEED OVER ME 'EAD...

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
'THE WAVES OF THE SEA ARE MIGHTY, AND RAGE 'ORRIBLY!'
PSALM 93, VERSE 5
CELESTE SCREAMS, AND WILLIE SPEAKS IN A SEPULCHRAL VOICE...
AAAGH! IT'S THE MAN WE DROWNED!
THAT IS NO PHANTOM! SHOOT HIM!
WILLIE DUCKS ASIDE AS THE SHOT-GUN ROARS...
THAT'S SHAKEN 'EM UP A BIT... IF I CAN KEEP 'EM ON THE 'OP IT'LL GIVE THE PRINCESS A CLEAR RUN
2935
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
HOW DID HE ESCAPE FROM UNDER THE SEA?
AND WHY HAS HE COME BACK?
WILLIE DISAPPEARS, SLAMMING THE HEAVY DOOR...
LOCKED
GET TO HIM THROUGH THE LIBRARY OR THE STUDY!
DON'T DISTRESS YOURSELVES, MY LITTLE DEARS— JUST GO DOWN TO THE BOAT-HOUSE AND PREPARE THE LAUNCH IN CASE WE HAVE TO DEPART IN HASTE
2936
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
MODESTY REACHES THE VILLA...
THAT WAS THE BALCONY WHERE NICOLE SPOKE TO ME— HER ROOM MUST OPEN ON TO IT
BLAST! THE DOG'S PICKED ME UP...
2937
A WOMAN! THE ONE WHO WAS HERE YESTERDAY...
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
BACK, CAESAR... I WILL BRING HER DOWN
BIG-GAME RIFLE— HE'LL BLOW ME APART!
AS THE GUN COMES UP TO THE AIM—
OHHH..!
IN THE RAMBLING VILLA, THE HUNT FOR WILLIE GARVIN GOES ON...
LISTEN! SOMEBODY IS PLAYING THE PIANO!
HE THINKS HE IS A COMEDIAN! SO WE GO IN BY DIFFERENT DOORS AND SHOW THE FOOL A BETTER JOKE!
2938

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
IN THE DRAWING ROOM, THE SOUND OF A CHOPIN WALTZ — BUT THERE IS NOBODY AT THE PIANO . . .
I'll 'ave the gun, then we'll move over to that window — PRESTISSIMO, like the music
AND one-two-three, one-two-three... the thing about these cassette players, you can always 'ave music while you work
2939
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
TO THE SOUND OF PIANO MUSIC, GUIDO ENTERS THE LOUNGE... AND FINDS THE CASSETTE PLAYER
WHY IS THE FOOL PLAYING CRAZY TRICKS?
BEHIND THE CURTAIN, WILLIE BREATHES A WARNING...
We'll keep nice an' quiet, eh? Makes it more creepy...
THE CURTAIN — IT MOVED!
2940
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
MAYBE YOU FIND THAT FUNNY, MY COMICAL FRIEND!
GUIDO FIRES ONE BARREL OF THE SHOT-GUN INTO THE CURTAIN...
FRANÇOIS!
BLIMEY! THEY SHOOT FIRST AND CHECK LATER!
YOU'LL 'AVE TO STOP PLAYING, WILLIE BOY
BEFORE THE SECOND BARREL CAN HURL ITS LETHAL CHARGE, WILLIE'S KNIFE STRIKES HOME...
2941
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
SHOOTING BELOW... WILLIE'S KEEPING THEM ON THE JUMP
MODESTY FINDS HER WAY IN THROUGH AN UPPER WINDOW...
GOT TO FIND NICOLE'S ROOM FAST — IT OUGHT TO BE SOMEWHERE ALONG THIS CORRIDOR...
ON THE FLOOR BELOW...
NICOLE! WHY HAVE YOU LEFT YOUR ROOM?
DON'T COME NEAR ME! I KNOW YOU MEAN TO KILL ME — I HEARD YOU SPEAK OF IT!
2942

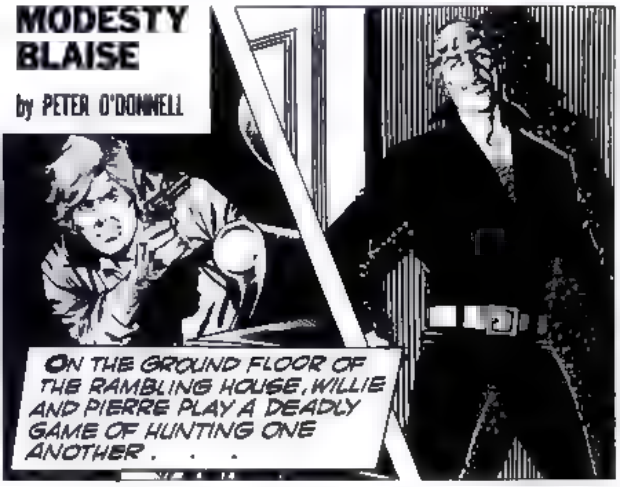
MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL



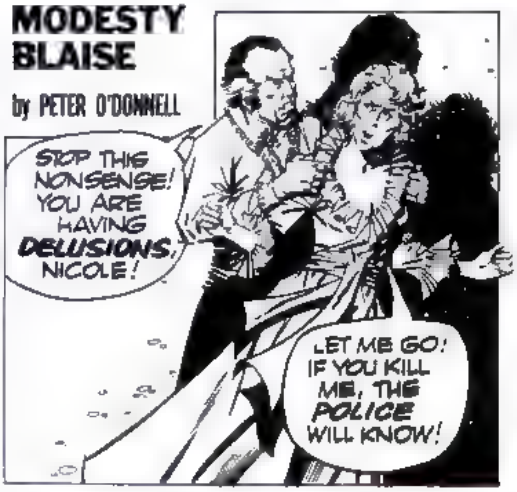
MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL



MODESTY BLAISE

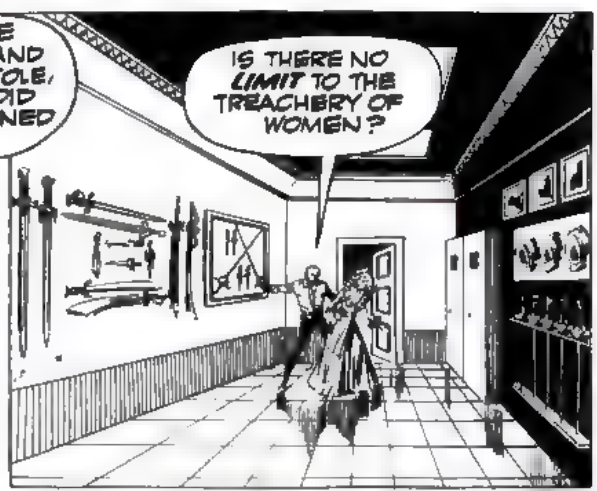
by PETER O'DONNELL



MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

SO MISS BLAISE DECEIVED ME! AND SO HAVE YOU, NICOLE, PRETENDING YOU DID NOT KNOW I PLANNED TO KILL YOU!
BARON RATH HUSTLES HIS WIFE ALONG THE PASSAGE AND INTO HIS PRIVATE FENCING SALLE . . .



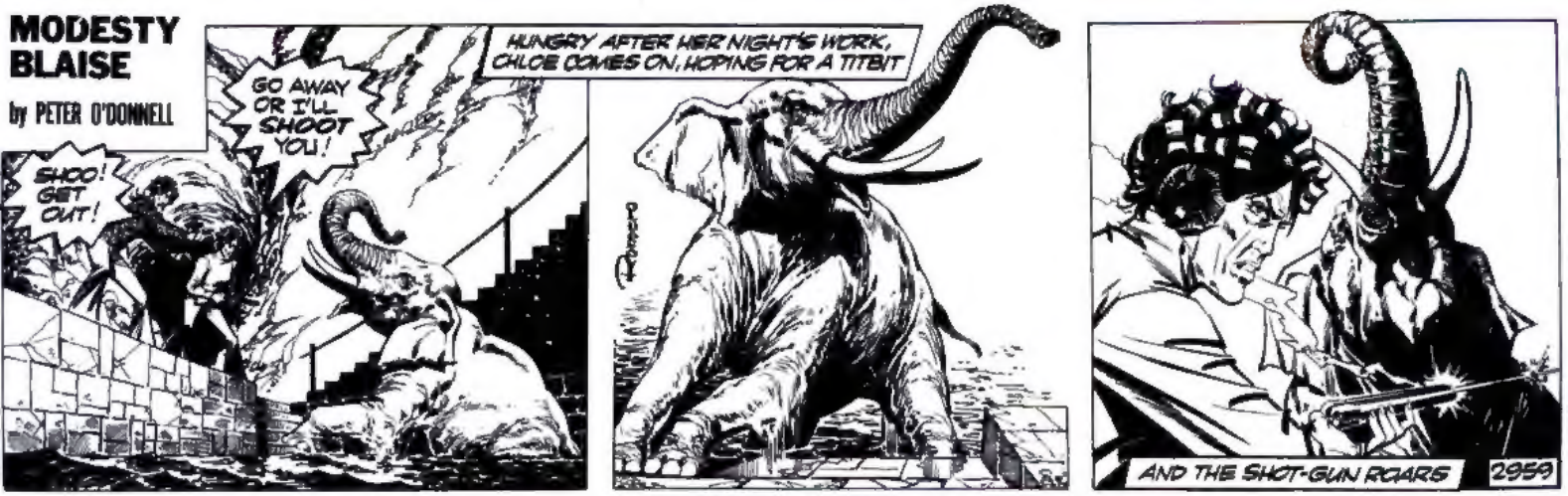
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
DROP THE GUN, MISS BLAISE... OR SHE DIES
IF YOU SHOOT ME, SHE STILL DIES—MY WEIGHT WILL DRIVE THE RAPIER THROUGH HER
STALEMATE...
MODESTY EMPTIES THE CYLINDER OF THE COLT...
A FENCING MASTER... AND YOU'D USE A RAPIER ON A SICK, UNARMED WOMAN? WHY NOT CROSS SWORDS WITH ME, BARON?
2947
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
ARE YOU REALLY SUCH A FOOL AS TO DUEL WITH ME? YOU MAY HAVE CONCEALED YOUR SKILL IN THE FENCING SALLE, BUT YOU KNOW I AM YOUR SUPERIOR!
ON THE PISTE, WITH A MASK, A PLASTRON, A BUTTONED ÉPÉE, AND A SET OF RULES ... YES
BUT THIS IS DIFFERENT, BARON... THE REAL THING'S ALWAYS DIFFERENT
2948
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
BARON RATH ATTACKS FIERCELY, AND MODESTY GIVES GROUND BEFORE HIS DARTING BLADE
AH! FIRST BLOOD TO ME, MISS BLAISE
HE'S TOO DARN GOOD! WISH WILLIE WOULD SHOW UP... I JUST WANT TO WIN, NOT WIN FAIRLY...
2949
AT THE HEAD OF THE STAIRS...
SOMEONE'S LAYING FOR ME... FEEL IT IN ME BONES
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
WILLIE DIVES, AND A HASTY SHOT PASSES A FOOT ABOVE HIM...
BUT THE KNIFE FLIES TRUE
IN THE LONG SALLE...
THAT WAS A SHOT... CAN'T COUNT ON WILLIE, HE'S STILL BUSY—GOT TO FINISH THIS MYSELF—AND FAST, OR HE'LL HAVE ME
2950

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
OVER-CONFIDENT ... HE'S GOING TO USE THE FLÈCHE FOR A GRANDSTAND FINISH
MODESTY ALLOWS HER DEFENCE TO WAVER A LITTLE... AND BARON RATH LAUGHS AS HE PRESSES HOME HIS ATTACK . . .
GAWD..!
AAGH!
THE EXPECTED MOVE COMES... AND MODESTY MEETS IT BY A COUNTER-OF-SIXTE TAKEN WITH A STEP BACK, THEN RIPOSTES IN THE LOW LINE JUST AS WILLIE GARVIN APPEARS IN THE DOORWAY
2951
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
I COULD USE A DRESSING, WILLIE
I DON'T WONDER! WHY TAKE 'IM ON WITH A RUDDY SWORD? YOU OUGHT TO KNOW BETTER, PRINCESS!
I MEAN, THAT'S 'IS FAVOURITE WEAPON! YOU'RE ALWAYS TELLING ME NOT TO TAKE CHANCES!
DON'T GO ON AT ME, WILLIE LOVE
SHE HAD NO CHOICE, M'SIEU . . . PLEASE, ALLOW ME TO DO THAT FOR THIS YOUNG LADY WHO HAS SAVED MY LIFE
2952
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
Romero
WELL, 'E WON'T BE KILLING OFF ANY MORE WIVES
HE WAS A MONSTER... A MONSTER!
COME AWAY AND LIE DOWN, NICOLE... I'LL TELEPHONE RÉNÉ VAUBOIS, AND HE'LL BE HERE SOON
MY UNCLE..? OH, THANK GOD...
IN THE BOAT-HOUSE
JUST LOOK AT THOSE DOORS, HORTENSE! WHATEVER COULD HAVE SMASHED THEM LIKE THAT?
2953
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
PERHAPS THAT HATEFUL MAN BLEW THE DOORS OPEN WITH EXPLOSIVE!
CHLOE THE ELEPHANT HAS WANDERED OUT OF THE BOAT-HOUSE, BUT IS DRAWN BY THE SOUND OF VOICES...
WELL I JUST HOPE PAPA AND THE SERVANTS HAVE KILLED HIM BY NOW, THE HORRID, SLY THING!
IN NICOLE'S BEDROOM
I'LL CALL RÉNÉ
I'VE FIXED THE PHONE, PRINCESS — IT WASN'T OUT OF ORDER, JUST DISCONNECTED AT A JUNCTION BOX
2954

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
MODESTY PHONES RENÉ VAUBOIS . . .
YES, NICOLE'S SAFE, BUT THE WAY THINGS WORKED OUT WAS A BIT MESSY— WE'LL NEED A COVER OPERATION
HE'S COMING OVER RIGHT AWAY
GOOD
YOU'VE ONLY FIRED ONE SHOT, PRINCESS — 'OW DID YOU FIX THE CREEPY SISTERS?
ME? I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM, WILLIE — I THOUGHT THEY'D BEEN INCLUDED IN YOUR BAG!
2955
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
BLIMEY..! IF NEITHER OF US TOOK CARE OF 'ORTENSE AND CELESTE, THEN THEY'RE STILL AROUND!
YOU STAY WITH NICOLE, WILLIE
THANKS... BUT WATCH IT, PRINCESS, THEY GO IN FOR SAWN-OFF SHOT-GUNS
AND YOU DON'T LIKE HEN PARTIES, SO WE'LL MAKE IT 'LADIES ONLY'
2956
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
IN THE BOAT-HOUSE...
IF PAPA DOESN'T COME DOWN SOON, WE MUST GO AND SEE WHAT'S HAPPENED
I CAN'T THINK HOW THAT HORRID MAN ESCAPED DROWNING WHEN WE DID IT ALL SO NICELY... YOU JUST CAN'T TRUST ENGLISHMEN
HORTENSE! LOOK!
2957
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
MODESTY MOVES WARILY IN SEARCH OF THE CREEPY SISTERS...
THEY COULD BE HIDING OUT IN THE CELLAR...
BUT BELOW THE CELLAR, IN THE BOAT-HOUSE...
IT — IT'S AN ELEPHANT!
CHLOE'S GREAT BULK MOVES FORWARD
THAT WRETCHED MAN MUST HAVE BROUGHT IT TO BREAK DOWN THE DOORS!
GO AWAY, YOU NASTY BRUTE!
2958

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL


GO AWAY OR I'LL SHOOT YOU!
SHOO! GET OUT!
HUNGRY AFTER HER NIGHT'S WORK, CHLOE COMES ON, HOPING FOR A TITBIT
AND THE SHOT-GUN ROARS
2959

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

AS THE ECHOES OF THE SHOT FILL THE BOAT-HOUSE...
RUN!
AAAGH!
MADDENED BY THE PAIN OF THE WOUND IN HER SHOULDER, CHLOE CHARGES . . .
THE GREAT TRUNK STRIKES LIKE A FLAIL . . .
2960

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

IN THE VILLA ABOVE THE BOAT-HOUSE, WILLIE IS ALARMED TO HEAR THE DISTANT SOUND OF HORTENSE'S SHOT-GUN
PRINCESS! YOU ALL RIGHT?
HORTENSE LIES DEAD, BROKEN BY ONE TERRIBLE BLOW FROM CHLOE'S TRUNK ... AND THEN THE WOUNDED ELEPHANT STRIKES ONCE MORE
2961

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

WILLIE SEES MODESTY UNHARMED
I 'EARD THE SHOT-GUN, AND I THOUGHT-
THEY WEREN'T FIRING AT ME... IT CAME FROM SOMEWHERE BELOW
WILLIE, LISTEN! WHAT IN GOD'S NAME IS THAT SCREAMING BELLOW?
IT'S CHLOE — IN THE BOAT-'OUSE! SOUNDS LIKE SHE'S GONE CRAZY!
2962

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
Romero
AS THE SQUEALS OF FURY SOUND FROM BELOW...
IF THE CREEPY SISTERS TOOK A SHOT AT CHLOE, I DON'T RECKON THERE'S MUCH OF 'EM LEFT
I'LL GO, PRINCESS... EASIER TO GET 'ER CALMED DOWN ON ME OWN
TWO MINUTES LATER WILLIE COMES UPON THE HORRIFYING SCENE . . .
MY GAWD, YOU'VE DONE A JOB WITH THEM TWO, CHLOE...
2963
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
YOU'RE HURT, MODESTY—
VAUBOIS ARRIVES...
WILLIE CAN SEE TO IT PROPERLY LATER—HE'S DEALING WITH A MESSY SITUATION IN THE BOAT-HOUSE
BARON RATH'S DAUGHTERS SHOT AT WILLIE'S ELEPHANT, AND SHE POUNDED THEM TO DEATH—HE'S BUSY SOOTHING HER
YOU OUGHT TO BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF, A BIG GIRL LIKE YOU MAKING A FUSS OVER A LITTLE SCRATCH... UNCLE WILLIE'S VERY CROSS WITH YOU
2964
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
I'VE GIVEN NICOLE A SEDATIVE, BUT YOU'D BETTER ARRANGE A DISCREET NURSING HOME FOR HER
I HAVE ALREADY DONE SO
WHAT THE DEVIL HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO, MODESTY? THE PLACE IS LITTERED WITH CORPSES!
BUT NOT NICOLE'S...
Romero
THEY SET THE RULES, RENÉ... AND WHEN YOU TANGLE WITH TRIGGER-HAPPY KILLERS YOU'RE EITHER QUICK OR YOU'RE DEAD
2965
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
POOR SOUL... WHAT A NIGHTMARE SHE HAS SUFFERED... I AM DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO YOU AND TO WILLIE
THEN COVER US, RENÉ
...IT SHOULDN'T BE DIFFICULT FOR THE HEAD OF FRENCH INTELLIGENCE TO ARRANGE AN ACCIDENTAL FIRE HERE
AH! A FIRE IN WHICH THE VILLA AND EVERYBODY IN IT IS UNFORTUNATELY ... CONSUMED ?
EXCEPT FOR NICOLE, WHO ESCAPES BY A MIRACLE
YES... I THINK THAT WILL DO VERY WELL
2966

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
I GOT CHLOE CALMED DOWN, PRINCESS.
WE'LL GET HER BACK TO THE CIRCUS, THEN— I'LL TAKE THE SPARE BUNK IN YOUR CARAVAN FOR WHAT'S LEFT OF THE NIGHT, WILLIE.
'ALLO, RÉNÉ— SORRY TO LEAVE YOU WITH THE CLEARING UP.
WE ALL HAVE OUR SPECIALITIES, WILLIE... MINE IS TO CLEAR UP.
A FIRE HAS BEEN ARRANGED, AND WILL SHORTLY TAKE PLACE.
I WISH YOU 'ADN'T PHRASED THAT LIKE A WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT— IT REMINDS ME OF ROSA.
2967
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
YOU'LL SOON BE AS GOOD AS NEW, CHLOE OLD DARLING.
NEXT DAY, AT THE CIRCUS...
I HOPE THE SAME GOES FOR YOU, WILLIE— HERE COME ROSA'S JEALOUS BROTHERS.
GOOD MORNING, LADY— YOU KNOW FONNY THING? THE HOUSE WHERE WE THROW YOU OVER WALL LAST NIGHT IS ALL BURN DOWN!
REALLY?
WE ARE GLAD, ALSO, LADY— AND NOW WE TALK WITH THEES MAN.
I'M SO GLAD I LEFT BEFORE IT HAPPENED.
2968
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
WE ARE MUCH ANGRY! WE SPEAK NOW OF YOU MAKING MARRIAGE WITH ROSA!
I GOT A SHOCK FOR YOU— I'M NOT MARRYING YOUR SISTER!
Romero
SEESTER? ROSA NOT OUR SEESTER! SHE IS GIRL WE FIND FOR OUR ACT, AND WE DON'T WANT YOU MARRY AND TAKE HER AWAY!
EH? BUT— BUT SHE SAID—
HO-HO-HO! I THEENK ROSA SAY THINGS TO MAKE YOU AFRAID OF US SO YOU MARRY HER QUEECK! BUT ALL WE WANT IS YOU GO AWAY PLEASE!
2969
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
IMAGINE ROSA KIDDING ME THOSE TURKS WERE 'ER BROTHERS, AND THAT THEY'D DO ME IF I DIDN'T MARRY 'ER!
YES, I THOUGHT YOU'D BE SURPRISED.
WELL, WEREN'T YOU, PRINCESS?
NO... IT CAME OUT LAST NIGHT WHILE I WAS DOING THAT STUNT WITH THE BROTHERS.
2970
AND YOU DIDN'T TELL ME?
IT WOULD HAVE JUST RUINED THE SURPRISE FOR YOU, WILLIE LOVE.